

Application No. 10/001,495
Amendment dated December 2, 2003
Reply to Office Action of October 1, 2003

REMARKS

Pursuant to the above-noted Office Action, the Examiner contends that the claims as originally presented belong to five patentably distinct species. The applicant respectfully disagrees. To support expedited prosecution, however, the applicant has elected to amend the claims such that only a single independent claims (claim 16) is now presented for consideration. The remaining claims, including the originally independent claims 1, 9, 22 and 25, are now presented in a form that is ultimately dependent upon claim 16.

The applicant respectfully submits that this reformation of the claims obviates the election and restriction requirement.

The Examiner is respectfully invited to contact applicants' counsel by telephone to discuss this matter further if the Examiner perceives that, notwithstanding these revisions to the claims, additional elections may be appropriate.

Respectfully submitted,

By: 

Steven G. Parmelee
Registration No. 28,790

Date: December 2, 2003

FITCH, EVEN, TABIN & FLANNERY
Suite 1600
120 South LaSalle
Chicago, Illinois 60603-3406
Telephone: (312) 577-7000
Facsimile: (312) 577-7007